

Remembering the 55 Jewish Diggers who fell at Gallipoli



CANBERRA FILE

Bernard Freedman

THIS Anzac Day 55 Jewish Diggers who fought at Gallipoli and died for their country will be honoured individually at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Thanks to the efforts of a member of Canberra's Jewish community they have, for the first time, been identified among the 60,000 dead World War I Diggers whose names are engraved on 188 tall bronze panels in the western cloister of the memorial.

Discovering the names of the Jewish Anzacs has been a four-year long labour of love for Margaret Beadman, a volunteer guide at the war memorial.

The memorial panels bear only the names and units of the dead. There is no indication of rank, religion, where they came or where they fell. In addition, some men enlisted under false names or Anglicized their names and others falsely described their religion as Church of England.

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Methodist or Roman Catholic.

This weekend — on Saturday afternoon, after the traditional Anzac Day service is over — a group of Jewish boys and girls from the local community will gather at the Australian War Memorial to place a poppy against each of the names.

Perhaps 55 does not seem a large number among the 8709 Australians who died in the gullies and on the inhospitable slopes of Gallipoli, the tragic battlefield which saw the birth of the Anzac tradition in nine months of bitter fighting. But in proportion to the size of the Jewish population of Australia at that time, they are a grim token of the extent of the sacrifice of young Jewish men in that so-

called Great War. Another 250 Jewish servicemen died on other battlefields. They were all volunteers. There was no conscription in those days.

The size of the Jewish population of Australia at the time was less than 20,000 (17,287 in the 1911 Census). A total of 2304 men — or more than 11 percent of the total Jewish population — enlisted. The 300 who died in all theatres of war represented 13 percent of those who enlisted.

An article in the Canberra Jewish Community journal *Hamerkaz* notes that the invasion force at Gallipoli comprised not only the Anzacs (the Australian and New Zealand Corps) but also a Jewish unit, the Zion Mule Corps, and British and French units

Corps, and British and French units in which Jews served and died, among them 2nd Lt Hamo Watts Sassoon, brother of the poet

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Margaret Beadman places a poppy against the name of Sergeant Benjamin Cantor on the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Photo: Bernard Freedman

The 55 Jewish Diggers of Collingwood

The 55 Jewish Diggers of Gallipoli

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Siegfried Sassoon, and Captain Robert Sebag-Montefiore.

Mrs Beadman compiled the Australian list with help from people overseas, including the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women in London. She believes her list is complete, but says she would like to hear from anyone who might have other names to add.

THE NAMES

The Jewish Diggers whose names will be marked with poppies on Anzac Day:

Trooper Harold Aarons, 4th Australian Light Horse, of Fitzroy, Victoria, died August 6, 1915; Pvt Maurice Lewis Aarons, 16th Btn AIF, of Fitzroy, Victoria, died August 8, 1915.

Pvt Roy Marr Bernays, 3rd Btn AIF, of Brisbane, died April 27, 1915, aged 25; Pvt Julius Sydney Bloom, 17th Btn AIF, of Randwick, NSW, died November 5, 1915, aged 23; Pvt Louis Robert Bloom, 16th Btn AIF, of Abbotsford, Victoria, died April 27, 1915.

Sgt Benjamin Cantor, Australian Field Artillery, of Collingwood, Victoria, died May 9, 1915, aged 23; Pvt William Cohen, 14th Btn AIF, of Fitzroy, Victoria, died April 30,

Fitzroy, Victoria, died April 30, 1915; Pvt Lionel Collins, 2nd Btn AIF, of Bega, NSW, died March 29, 1915, aged 20; Pvt David Conroy (correct name Abe Levene), 4th Btn AIF, of Nottingham, England, died July 23, 1915, aged 20.

Pvt Emanuel Percival Davies (Davis), 11th Btn AIF, died July 18, 1915;

Sgt Samuel Morris Ehrenburg, 5th Btn AIF, of Melbourne, Victoria, died April 25, 1915, aged 21.

Pvt Gordon Fink, 16th Btn AIF, of Toorak, Victoria, died May 2, 1915, aged 30; Pvt Henry Funkenstein, 2nd Btn AIF, of Newcastle, NSW, died May 2, 1915, aged 26.

Pvt Frederick George Gabriel, 18th Btn AIF, of Crouch End, London, died August 22, 1915; Pvt Leopold Gluck (Glook), 11th Btn AIF, of Mt Lawley, WA, died May 2, 1915, aged 32; Pvt Montague Goldring, 15th Btn AIF, of Waverley, NSW, died August 8, 1915, aged 30.

Pvt Morris Haines, 3rd Btn AIF, of Adelaide, SA, died between August 7 and 12, 1915, aged 21; L/Cpl Henry Hart, 7th Btn AIF, of Richmond, Victoria, died May 18, 1915, aged 19; Cpl Horace Arthur Hart, 8th Btn AIF, of Ballarat, Victoria, died May 8, 1915, aged 26; Pvt Leslie Hart, 7th Btn AIF, of Brunswick, NSW, died May 4, 1915; Pvt Harold Ellis Herman,

1915; Pvt Harold Ellis Herman, 17th Btn AIF, of Waverley, NSW, died November 20, 1915; Pvt Lauritz Hojein, 16th Btn AIF, of Vadso, Norway, died May 2, 1915, aged 32; L/Cpl Maxwell Howitz, 15th Btn AIF, of Sydney, NSW, died August 7, 1915, aged 23.

Pvt Louis William Jacobs, 7th Btn AIF, of Perth, WA, died December 3, 1915, aged 22; Pvt David Harold Jude, 8th Btn AIF, died between May 1 and 3,

1915; QMSgt Elias Max Judell, 9th Light Horse, of Unley Park, SA, died August 9, 1915, aged 24.

L/Cpl Cuthbert Kaufmann, 15th Btn AIF, of Melbourne, Victoria, died May 1, 1915, aged 25.

Pvt Isaac Lazarus, 7th Btn AIF, of Fitzroy, Victoria, died May 8, 1915, aged 21; Pvt David Lee, 14th Btn AIF, of Colac, Victoria, died April 27, 1915; Pvt Ernest Charles Levey, 2nd Btn AIF, of Waverley, NSW, died July 13, 1915; Capt Keith Maurice Levi, Aust Army Medical Corps, of Melbourne, Victoria, died August 7, 1915, aged 24; Pvt Michael Levine, 15th Btn AIF, of Merigandan, Qld, died May 29, 1915, aged 31; Pvt A.Lewin, 1st Btn AIF, of Bradford, Yorkshire, died August 6-9, 1915; Pvt Ernest Arthur Lione, 1st Btn AIF, of London, died May 29, 1915, aged 20.

Anzacs in Palestine

— *'Shabbat Shalom,'*

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Pvt Alfred Marks, 1st Btn AIF, of Broken Hill, NSW, died May 19, 1915, aged 36; L/Cpl Alfred George Marks, 5th Btn AIF, of St Kilda, Victoria, died August 4, 1915; Pvt Bernhard Ernest Marks, 10th Btn AIF, of Hackney, SA, died April 28, 1915; L/Sgt Lionel Marcus Bernard Marks, 13th Btn AIF, of St Kilda, Victoria, died May

3, 1915, aged 32; Pvt Gordon Marquis, 13th Btn AIF, of Newcastle, NSW, died August 17, 1915, aged 23; Pvt Edward Elias Moss, 4th Btn AIF, of Stanmore, NSW, died August 8, 1915, aged 52.

Sgt Alfred Norman, 4th Btn AIF, of London, died May 20, 1915, aged 25.

Pvt Arthur Kingston Rosenthal (Rosenthal), Aust Army Medical Corps, of Manly, NSW died May 29, 1915, aged 33; Bugler Phillip Henry Russell (served as Tibby Watts), 20th Btn AIF, of Goodna, Qld, died November 6, 1915.

2nd Lt John Reginald Shallberg, 8th Btn AIF, of

Shallberg, 8th Btn AIF, of Camberwell, Victoria, died August 7, 1915, aged 21; Pvt Godfrey John Sherman, 9th Btn AIF, of Bondi, NSW, died April 25, 1915, aged 23; Pvt Oscar Simon, 9th Btn AIF, of Brisbane, Qld, died May 6, 1915, aged 22; Pvt Samuel Singer, 2nd Bth AIF, of Surry Hills, Sydney, died July 25, 1916, aged 23; Pvt Roy Henry Solomon, 5th Light Horse Regiment; Pvt Leonard Stiebel, 13th Btn AIF, of Launceston, Tasmania, died May 3, 1915, aged 29.

Pvt Alexander Weingott, 13th Btn AIF, of Annandale, NSW, died May 2, 1915, aged 26; Pvt Samuel Weingott, 1st Btn AIF, brother of Alexander Weingott, died May 2, 1915, aged 22; Sgt Charles Stanley Whitfield, 4th Btn AIF, of Sydney, NSW, died April 17, 1918, aged 27.
